

Message Text

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SUBJ: CCMS-FALL 1976 PLENARY-POSSIBLE NEW PILOT STUDIES-
DRINKING WATER

SUMMARY: THE US PUT FORWARD A PRELIMINARY PROPOSAL FOR A NEW CCMS PILOT STUDY ON DRINKING WATER, THE SUPPLY OF WHICH IS A MAJOR PROBLEM FOR INDUSTRIAL SOCIETIES. THE US PROPOSAL FOCUSES ON THE HEALTH HAZARDS, TREATMENT TECHNOLOGIES, DATA HANDLING, AND DISCHARGE CONTROL STRATEGIES WITH WHICH ALL OF THE ALLIES ARE CONCERNED. BELGIUM, CANADA, THE UK, TURKEY DENMARK, THE FRG, FRANCE, AND NORWAY ALL SPOKE IN STRONG SUPPORT OF THE US PROPOSAL. ALLIED HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL EXPERTS WILL MEET AT NATO HQ, DEC 2-3, 1976, TO OUTLINE A FINAL PILOT STUDY PROPOSAL FOR FORMAL PRESENTATION AT THE DUSSELFORD, SPRING PLENARY, FEB 8-9 1977. END SUMMARY.

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1. THE US (TRAIN) INTRODUCED THIS PRELIMINARY PROPOSAL BY RECALLING THAT THE PROVISION OF SAFE WATER IS AN EXTREMELY COMPLEX PROBLEM FOR INDUSTRIALIZED SOCIETIES. THE LOW EVIDENCE OF TYPHOID AND CHOLERA

TESTIFIES TO THEIR SUCCESS IN COPING WITH WATERBORNE DISEASES, BUT NEW AND SERIOUS CHEMICAL DISCHARGES AND HUMAN WASTES THREATEN MODERN SOCIETIE EVEN MORE.

2. CONSEQUENTLY, THE US HAD DECIDED TO PROPOSE THIS STUDY TO FACILITATE THE SHARING OF INFORMATION ON MONITORING AND MEASUREMENT METHODOLOGIES AND THE HEALTH EFFECTS OF THESE CONTAMINANTS. IN DRAFTING THE PROPOSAL THE US HAS HAD CONVERSATIONS WITH THE KEY CEC STAFF MEMBERS. AN EXPERTS MEETING WILL BE HELD AT NATO, DECEMBER 2-3, 1976 TO OUTLINE THE STUDY PROPOSAL FOR PRESENTATION AT THE SPRING 1977 PLENARY.

3. BELGIUM (LAFONTAINE) INTENDS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE EXPERTS MEETING. FOUR ASPECTS ARE OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO BELGIUM: NATURAL TOXICS IN THE WATER, A PROBLEM ON WHICH THE EC IS FOCUSING; LONG TERM EFFECTS ON SURFACE WATER OF OZONE, CHLORINE AND OTHER SUBSTANCES USED FOR PURIFICATION; RESIDUAL TOXICITY OF POLYMERS USED FOR PURIFICATION; AND THE TECHNOLOGY OF IDENTIFICATION AND ELIMINATION OF VIRUSES.

4. CANADA (BEAULIEU) SUPPORTS THE PROPOSAL AND WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE DECEMBER MTG. THE PROPOSED PILOT STUDY WILL BE MOST USEFUL IF IT HAS FULL ALLIED PARTICIPATION, AND IS CAREFUL TO AVOID DUPLICATION WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.

5. THE UK (FAIRCLOUGH) BELIEVES THERE IS A GOOD DEAL OF INVESTIGATION TO BE DONE ON THIS PROBLEM, AND FULLY SUPPORTS THE US PROPOSAL. ANALYSIS, CHEMICAL AND DATA HANDLING, AND ADVANCED TREATMENT TECHNOLOGY ARE MAJOR UK INTERESTS.

6. TUREKEY (SERDAROGLU) BELIEVES THAT THE PROPOSAL UNCLASSIFIED

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IS MUCH-NEEDED AND TIMELY. TURKEY STRONGLY SUPPORTS ITS ADOPTION.

7. DENMARK (HOFF) IS ALREADY ACTIVELY WORKING ON THIS PROBLEM IN THE EC, AND EXPECTS TO SEND AN EXPERT TO THE DECEMBER MEETING.

8. THE FRG (KUPFER) JOINS THE OTHER ALLIES IN WELCOMING THE PROPOSAL. IT IS AN EXCELLENT SUGGESTION, APPROPRIATE FOR NATO DISCUSSION. THE FRG HAS A PARTICULAR INTEREST IN ADVANCED TREATMENT TECHNOLOGY, AND WILL CONTRIBUTE ACTIVELY TO THIS AND OTHER ASPECTS OF THE STUDY.

9. FRANCE (FESQUET) ALSO WELCOMES THE PROPOSAL AND WILL PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY. IT REQUIRES CLOSE COORDINATION WITH THE EC TO AVOID DUPLICATION; AT THE SAME TIME, HEALTH AS WELL AS ENVIRONMENTAL EXPERTS FROM THE ALLIED COUNTRIES SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE.

10. NORWAY (LYKKE) REGARDS THIS PROBLEM AS A CRITICAL ONE, PARTICULARLY THE DEVELOPMENT OF BETTER DISCHARGE CONTROL STRATEGIES. NORWAY'S PRELIMINARY STUDIES HAVE FOCUSED ON CANCER-CAUSING CHEMICALS, HYDROCARBONS, AND ATMOSPHERIC TRANSFER OF THESE POLLUTANTS TO WATER. NORWAY WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE EXPERTS MTG.

11. THE US (TRAIN) WELCOMES AND SUPPORTS THE FRENCH SUGGESTIONS FOR COORDINATION WITH THE EC AND FOR PARTICIPATION OF BOTH HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL EXPERTS IN THE STUDY.

12. THE CHAIRMAN (OZDAS) INVITED THE US TO ORGANIZE THE DECEMBER PLANNING MTG AND TO PRESENT THE FORMAL PILOT STUDY PROPOSAL AT THE SPRING 1977 PLENARY IN DUSSELDORF. STREATOR

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